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Advocate of Peace.

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Atrocity and the Lusitania.

Atrocity? Yes! Atrocities, indeed, a plenty! An American citizen was drowned March 28, because of the sinking of the British steamer *Falaba* by a German submarine; an American vessel, the *Cushing,* was attacked by a German aeroplane April 28; the American vessel *Gulflight* was torpedoed by a German submarine and a number of American citizens were killed May 1; and then on the seventh of May came the sinking of the British liner *Lusitania,* with a loss of one hundred fourteen American lives.

These were extraordinary events, subversive of reason, justice, and humanity. They were atrocities. Because of them the people of the United States have been stirred as they have not been stirred since the 15th of February, 1898, when two hundred sixty-eight American lives were lost because of the destruction of the *Maine* in the harbor of Havana.

And yet there is nothing about any one of these events, or all of them together, that compares with that larger and more stupendous atrocity, the atrocity of the war itself. All of these tragedies were in violation of the rules, euphemistically known as "laws of war"; there seems no doubt of that. But this world-war, so wicked that no nation dare own its paternity, is the very soul of atrocity, most hideous as it is most unparalleled. The sinking of the *Lusitania* only brought the atrocity nearer home to us. In assessing the atrocities of this debacle men need to weigh and remember with precision and care. Simply to dwell upon our own losses is a childish misinterpretation of world affairs.

The Mohonk Conference

The twenty-first Lake Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration has been quite generally interpreted by the press as an ill-tempered and heated conflict between pacifists and militarists, with the militarists well in the lead. We are told that "grim-visaged war stalked truculently into the assemblage;" that "the doves of peace fluttered in an ecstacy of fear;" that "the dove-cotes were turned into eagle-nests."

As a matter of fact, not a single militarist presented himself during the conference. Even the Secretary of War, the President of Princeton University, and our most prominent general are not militarists; they gave us their own word that they are not. It is true that they believe in an "adequate defense," and that they urged it with a power and an unction difficult to understand, since no one is opposing "adequate defense." For some unknown reason these distinguished and patriotic gentlemen, one of them the author of a text-book on logic, utterly ignored the patent fact that the phrase "adequate defense" is not entirely self-explanatory. Furthermore, it did not appear just what "adequate defense" has to do with the Mohonk conferences, where plans for promoting international arbitration are the chief interest.

It is to the credit of the conference that its platform committee rose above the irrelevant and voiced the collective judgment of the guests with wisdom, satisfaction, and restraint. It is not an easy matter to surmount the natural discouragements in the presence of this world war, but this was done and with unanimity. The conference reaffirmed its faith in the beneficence of